



TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

TX BoS CoC Review, Score, and Ranking Policies and Reallocation Process

Performance Review and Scoring Policies

Texas Homeless Network (THN) is the Collaborative Applicant and CoC Lead Agency for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC). THN facilitates the competition/application process in the TX BoS CoC for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funds.

Applications for Renewal Projects and New Projects will undergo a threshold review to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act, the CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), and the local CoC Request for Proposals (RFP). Any Renewal or New Project not meeting the threshold requirements as outlined in the RFP will not be further reviewed and will not be considered for funding. Late applications (those submitted after the due date and time listed in the RFP) will not be accepted.

The TX BoS CoC makes available, and accepts comment on, the scoring standards for Renewal and New Projects on THN's website, and feedback is welcomed at CoC General Meetings. The Renewal Project Scoring Criteria (Appendix 1 and the New Project Scoring Criteria (Appendix 2) are attached.

Review and scoring of Renewal Projects is completed by the Independent Review Team (IRT) then tabulated by TX BoS CoC staff. Scoring is largely based on data obtained from APRs, LOCCS draw-down data, HUD monitoring reports, System-Wide Performance Measures, spending per client/household by project type and other HMIS data.

The TX BoS CoC appoints an Independent Review Team (IRT) to review and score Renewal Project and New Project applications. After meeting the local RFP and HUD CoC Program requirements, all projects are subject to the scoring outlined in the local RFP, New Project Scoring Criteria (Attachment 1) and Renewal Project Scoring Criteria (Attachment 2) TX BoS CoC staff and the TX BoS CoC Board (the CoC's governing body) utilize scoring to inform the selection of conditional grantees. The TX BoS CoC Board has the discretion to include in the CoC's Consolidated Application one or more project applications for the funding amount available for New Projects. The TX BoS CoC Board may also give TX BoS CoC staff direction to negotiate with conditional grantees on project applications that includes but is not limited to budget negotiations, to best maximize overall score and increase chances of receiving bonus project funding.

After the IRT scores all Renewal and New Projects within the CoC based on the Renewal Project Scoring Criteria and the New Project Scoring Criteria, the TX BoS CoC Board and the CoC Lead Agency will rank applications for the Priority Listing and for submission to HUD.

Ranking Policy

HUD requires Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects in two tiers. Tier 1 is defined by HUD in the CoC Program NOFA as a percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) approved by HUD on the final HUD-approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). Tier 1 projects are traditionally protected from cuts. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the

permanent housing bonus, as described in the NOFA. Tier 2 projects have to compete nationally for funding.

The TX BoS CoC's HMIS Project will be ranked first in Tier 1, per the TX BoS CoC Board, as the board views it as an essential project to effectively operate the CoC. Projects renewing for the first time that were funded as part of the prior CoC Program competition that have not been in operation for at least one year, will be ranked in the bottom of Tier 1 and ahead of first-time Renewal Projects that have been in operation for at least one year. The CoC Planning Project is not ranked, according to the NOFA.

Ranking:

Tier 1:

1. HMIS Project
2. Scored Permanent Housing (PH) Renewal Projects (lowest-scoring projects may drop to Tier 2)
3. Re-Allocated Projects (lowest-scoring projects may drop to Tier 2)
4. First time Permanent Housing (PH) Projects and other Renewal Projects that have not been in operation for at least one year
5. Tier 2: Bonus Projects and remaining Renewal Projects and remaining Re-allocated Projects (Bonus Projects may out-rank Renewal Projects and/or Re-Allocated Projects of the same component type by score in Tier 2)

Tier 2: Project components will be organized to best maximize the CoC Consolidated Application's overall score.

Re-Allocation Process

Any funds reallocated as part of recapturing unspent funds, voluntary re-allocation, or involuntary reallocation will be made available for reallocation to create New Projects during the local competition/application process. In the FY 2016 competition these funds will first go toward fully funding the TX BoS CoC HMIS Project, and remaining funds will be re-allocated for New Project(s).

Unspent Funds

Projects that are not fully expended by the end of the grant term or are underspending during the grant term are subject to the re-allocation process. Projects that have underspent their award by 7% or more for the prior two grant cycles may have their funding reduced, and those funds would be reallocated for New Project(s). The TX BoS CoC will recapture 50% of the 2-year average of the unspent funds.

Voluntary Re-Allocation

As part of the local competition/application process for inclusion in the CoC Program Consolidated Application, current CoC Program grantees are asked whether they wish to voluntarily re-allocate some or all of their funding. Such re-allocated funds are pooled for re-allocation to New Project(s).

Involuntary Re-Allocation

Projects with poor performance, that are not serving the intended population, and/or that have unresolved HUD monitoring findings are subject to re-allocation.

Conditional Renewal

The TX BoS CoC will establish a performance threshold at 75% of the top scoring Renewal Project. For example, if the top score is 100, the minimum threshold will be set at 75.

Projects scoring below the threshold will be asked to develop a plan to address performance issues by the next year's competition (a Performance Improvement Plan). If problems continue, projects may have funding re-allocated in the following competition. Applicants may appeal the decision, using the TX BoS CoC's written appeals process, and the appeal must be considered by the TX BoS CoC Board.